

REFUGEE NATION

A RADICAL SOLUTION



CRISIS & SOLUTION

“THE WORLD’S POPULATION HAS NEVER BEEN WEALTHIER, HEALTHIER OR MORE CONNECTED. YET THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DISPLACED HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER” – DAVID MILIBAND, FORMER UK FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

There is a humanitarian crisis taking place in nearly every corner of the world. This crisis has been growing for many years, and finding a viable solution has never been more urgent.

It isn't climate change, or other well-publicized crises. This crisis doesn't get the attention and response it deserves because it primarily affects the world's most powerless, needy and vulnerable people.

If you knew that millions of people suffer day in and day out, and that it is in your power to save and change their lives, would you make a small effort on their behalf?

Millions of victims of this man-made crisis are left to face the lethal consequences of full scale wars, armed conflicts, and ethnic cleansing. News reports tell us about the hundreds of thousands of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, or the thousands who drown at sea while desperately seeking a better life.

Last June 20th, on World Refugee Day 2014, the UN's refugee agency reported that the number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time since World War II, now exceeds 50 million people. This year, the same agency reported nearly 60 million displaced people.

Think of it: that's 60 million people uprooted and forced to flee their homes. It includes:

- Syrians escaping the civil war
- Christians running from ISIS in Iraq
- Ukrainians fleeing their nation's conflict
- Palestinians living in refugee camps
- Sudanese persecuted for their faith
- Congolese displaced by civil war
- Burmese minorities affected by government policies and natural disasters
- and countless more.

They come from all backgrounds, races, and religions. They inhabit every corner of the world.

The common denominator: these innocent individuals, families, communities, and even entire ethnic groups have been left homeless and stateless by armed conflict, economic turmoil and ethnic cleansing.

So today - World Refugee Day, 2015 - we come together to say: Enough is Enough!

We are committed to ending this horror with a radical solution that isn't unattainable or crazy. We offer the most practical and implementable solution to the world's perennial refugee crisis.

The UNHCR, International Rescue Committee, Red Cross, and other well-meaning organizations - governmental, non-governmental, faith based, and others - have spent decades trying to help alleviate the suffering. Yet the problem continues to spiral out of control, and no comprehensive solution is being seriously discussed.

Such a solution is clearly needed. The piecemeal actions taken so far don't even begin to solve this problem. At most they feed people and provide temporary shelter for years, lifetimes, and even generations in refugee camps. These sincere efforts are commendable, but do not begin to address the core problem.

The camps' host countries almost never offer refugees any citizenship, or even the right to work. As a result, too many displaced people live in extreme poverty, resort to crime, join extremist groups, or fall victim to human traffickers.

As one example, in the Jordanian camps housing hundreds of thousands of refugees from the ongoing conflict in Syria, wealthy older men from Gulf countries reportedly come to refugee camps and choose brides as young as 13. Their families, desperate for money, oblige.

Congolese refugees fleeing to Uganda have resorted to digging through garbage heaps and prostitution to survive.

And what of people educated and formerly employed as doctors, lawyers, engineers, or academics? Countless numbers, now unable to work, are forced to waste away in tents or crumbling buildings without using their abilities.

Even if external assistance programs meet their basic physical needs, what is life like for them? It is little wonder that so many refugees suffer from depression and PTSD. How can we, as privileged citizens of the first world, allow so many fellow human beings to live in such misery?

So what can be done to address this crisis, and alleviate the suffering of so many innocent people?

There is a solution, and it is glaringly obvious. It may sound grandiose, but it is not only logical - it is the only practical solution to this persistent, debilitating problem.

The solution is simple: for the millions of stateless people around the world - a state of their own!

Today 195 sovereign countries are recognized around the world. And we need one more . . . a country which any refugee, from anywhere in the world, can call home. Where each has the same legal rights to reside, work, pursue an education, have a family, buy and sell property, start a business, like any of us. Where everyone is an equal citizen, regardless of ethnic background, religious affiliation, or any other personal status. A completely inclusive and compassionate nation, in which every refugee is automatically granted citizenship.

WHAT IS A REFUGEE? HOW MANY ARE THERE?

The United Nations defines a refugee as "Any person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

According to the UNHCR, some 19.5 million people met these criteria at the end of 2014. That number has almost certainly grown, given ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere. And about twice that number-- 40 million—are "internally displaced," uprooted and forced to seek shelter in their own country.

Over 42,500 such people a day are forced to flee their homes and seek protection elsewhere. 86% of those refugees can only settle in developing countries, usually one neighboring the one they fled: Syrian refugees in Jordan, Somali refugees in Kenya, Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and so on. This raises a number of issues. For one thing, many neighboring countries are themselves economically unstable or embroiled in conflict.

I once volunteered to help an Iraqi Christian family that resettled in California. To escape persecution and instability in their home country, they had initially spent a few years in neighboring Syria. Then violence spilled across the border and they had to flee again. This personal experience reinforced my desire to find a solution.

LOGISTICS

The famous real estate dictum says the three most important factors are "location, location, and location." Even people who recognize the need for a refugee nation and logic will predictably ask "But . . . where?"

Here are four most logical options:

A. First we must see through the misconception that every inch of habitable land is owned by someone, heavily populated and developed.

My home state of California is America's most populous state, which in turn is the world's third most populous country. California is home to about 40 million people. Approximately 90% of them live on less than 10% of the state's land, primarily in Southern California. This semi-desert area lacks the rainfall and water supplies to provide for the needs of 25 million people.

Today, the state is experiencing another severe drought. Climate change is certainly one culprit; yet the fact is, a semi-arid area was never the best

place for 25 million people to set up their homes. Fires and droughts should be expected when such a hot, dry place becomes a major urban center.

Yet California also has millions of acres of lush, green forests, some of the Earth's best arable land, with plenty of rainfall and many rivers, lakes, and waterfalls. Its mild climate means almost no freezing winters or 100+ degree summer days. The area has few residents, despite the wonderful conditions and an area larger than Taiwan or South Korea—home to tens of millions of people.

Most Americans don't realize that just north of San Francisco are tens of thousands of square miles of very habitable yet virtually uninhabited land.

Of course, it is not politically feasible for the United States to contribute part of California to this project. But the facts illustrate how densely human populations have crowded themselves into modern megacities, while much of our best land remains unused.

Another example of a sparsely populated area in a crowded region (Europe) boasting many natural resources, is the nation of Finland, where I spent a summer in my youth. Only about 5 million Finns inhabit a country larger than the United Kingdom, which has 65 million people despite its infamous climate.

Even the capital city of Helsinki includes vast forests. The climate of Finland is far colder than California, but most of it is at least habitable.

There is an abundance of fresh water and agricultural land available in Finland. And the same is true across Scandinavia.

And it is not only in colder climates, that large empty spaces are available. They can also be found in highly populated countries with moderate climates, such as central Spain.

A thought-provoking report entitled "Making the Best of Europe's Sparsely Populated Areas" shows more of such areas. This paper is freely available online.

It's important to remember that many countries in the world include vast areas of prime land, which is unused or underused yet very fit for human habitation.

If one country agreed to carve off a sparsely inhabited area and permanently solve a major ongoing humanitarian crisis, this problem could be resolved almost immediately. It could be motivated by humanitarian principles, or receive some form of compensation from the world community or wealthy donors.

We all know that countries do not typically give up territory, however distant or sparsely populated, without a fight. Literally. Major powers have gone to war over remote islands hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

Yet there is a growing awareness, especially in more evolved societies, that we are interconnected as a planet and as a human race. That we can no longer ignore what is happening in "remote" parts of the world, and that root causes of the refugee crisis could soon arrive on the shores of any nation.

Within a few months this year, thousands of refugees drowned trying to cross by boat from Africa to Europe. Tens of thousands have already arrived by boat, and hundreds of thousands by other means. This humanitarian and economic catastrophe cannot be ignored, and will not resolve itself.

Scandinavian countries have generously taken in large numbers of refugees from war-torn countries like Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam in the past. More than once, this has led to social conflict between the migrants and the locals, and led to contentious immigration debates across Europe. Can national leaders afford to overlook a viable, humane way to resolve this international crisis?

This approach would generate waves of global goodwill, and prompt sincere gratitude from millions of refugees and new hope for humane people the world over.

Establishing a Refugee Nation in a highly developed part of the European Union offers many advantages. The new nation could even someday become a valued member of the EU. But as we have shown, Europe is hardly the only continent in the world with vast sparsely-populated areas.

Less developed nations also tend to be more territorial and may be less willing to give up land without significant financial compensation.

B. Also worth considering is to approach a country with many islands, to use one of them as a Refugee Nation. The beautiful Philippines, for exam-

ple, is comprised of over 7000 islands mostly uninhabited. Thousands do not even have a name. During one recent visit to the Philippines, someone offered to sell me one small, uninhabited island after I visited it on a day trip.

There are over 17,000 islands in Indonesia, many with beautiful beaches and a generally pleasant tropical climate. Half of these are not even named; many--perhaps most--are uninhabited. In fact, many of the world's islands are uninhabited (The world's top island broker, Farhad Vladi, has sold 1500 islands to date).

The issue is demonstrably not a shortage of islands, but potential legal and political concerns. After being asked to buy that island in the Philippines, I did a bit of research and discovered that only Filipino citizens and their immediate relatives are allowed to purchase land there. Yet with the political will, laws like these can be easily changed and a nation could host the new home country of stateless refugees from around the world.

[As an important side note to any discussion about locating a new country on an island or chain of islands, bear in mind the concern over how rising sea levels affect some island countries. National Geographic article discussed it in one article, which you can [read here](#).

C. A third option, probably the easiest and fastest, would be for a sovereign, sparsely populated country to allow itself to be taken over with the approval of its population.

The existing nation's citizens would become a minority, but would be permanently provided for and gain the goodwill of the world. They would also benefit from a sudden influx of many trained professionals and laborers. No new country would need to be formed, and United Nations recognition wouldn't be required. This would eliminate any struggle for independence and sovereignty.

Consider these examples:

1. The island nation of Dominica (not to be confused with the Dominican Republic) is a sovereign Caribbean nation with a population of only 73,000 people. Its 290-square-miles area makes it slightly larger than Singapore, an island nation with over 5 million people.
2. Unlike Dominica, which is one island, Micronesia is an island nation in the Pacific Ocean with over 600 islands. It is about the same size, 271 square miles and has a population of 106,000 people. Both of these sovereign island nations would offer good climates and sufficient rainfall, good soil and vegetation.

Many other nations with five- and six-figure populations and a lot of unused land also deserve consideration.

D. A fourth option, probably not as feasible, would be to build a new island in international waters.

Real estate professionals like to say: "Buy land, they're not making any more of it." But nations like Dubai and more recently China, have built islands in the middle of the ocean. It could be located in international waters, outside territory claimed by any nation.

One major disadvantage is the tremendous cost of building islands from scratch, and the environmental damage it would cause. Building the man-made Palm Islands in Dubai required tremendous resources and led to extensive environmental damage.

With millions of acres of sparsely populated land around the world, and tens of thousands of uninhabited islands, there is no shortage of available space to house a refugee population equivalent to a small country (and that is IF all refugees were to move there, which is highly unlikely). We only need enough political will.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY, AND LANGUAGE

Anyone expecting a radical new form of government for this new nation will be disappointed. World history shows the most successful societies over the long term are democratic, pluralistic and generally capitalist. Basic freedoms will be assured by a robust constitution similar to that of the US, which has been a model for many countries. Rights of free speech, freedom of religion, separation of church and state, and other basic freedoms should be guaranteed and enforced for national stability and a vibrant democracy.

There are various forms of capitalism that could be decided by voters in a multi-party democracy. The U.S. and Sweden, for example, both have among the world's highest standards of living. Swedish-style capitalism is characterized by higher taxes, and more social benefits and services such as health care, long maternity leave and high minimum wages. Economic policy issues are for the voters to decide. That's why we have different political parties and elections. And this will be a multi-party democracy.

Whatever the choice, these should be two of the top priorities:

1. Nurturing a strong work culture, as opposed to a culture of benefits. Economies and governments collapse without this.
2. There should be jobs and job training for everyone.

In my opinion, here in the U.S., we do a good job with #1, more so than Europe, but they do a better job at #2.

A Polish friend of mine who moved to Berlin received comprehensive training and certification for months as an electrician. He is now making a good living. Most major U.S. cities have double digit youth unemployment, especially among minority populations. Not coincidentally, these populations suffer from high rates of poverty, crime, and social unrest. On the other hand, the U.S. leads the world in entrepreneurship and innovation.

So this new nation's success will depend on our ability to instill a strong work culture, and provide job opportunities and comprehensive job training for all who need it. This should not be difficult in a new country, given the tremendous need for new infrastructure such as roads, bridges, buildings, power stations, refineries, fiber optic cable, sewer lines, etc. Every few years, these will need to be upgraded and improved. The need to establish and maintain such infrastructure alone would provide hundreds of thousands of jobs for engineers, architects, accountants, construction workers, etc. These would be both public and private sector jobs.

One model for this effort is FDR's job creation program, which helped speed America's growth right after the Great Depression ([Read More](#))

Here in the U.S., the richest country on Earth, many bridges are unsafe, as well as roads that need improvement. High youth unemployment also slows economic growth and leads to social unrest. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be the political will to achieve the obvious solution to both these problems.

A new country will also need many teachers. Everyone should become fluent in a common language such as English, and be offered free courses at learning centers and in schools. Job training provides jobs for the trainees, but also helps the trainers, administrators, etc.

New home construction will provide many opportunities and jobs in architecture, civil engineering, surveying, financing, specialized fields such as plumbing and electrical, and manual labor.

Undertaking this major project will initially require massive funding to possibly buy land; transport refugees; provide immediate assistance until the economy can be built up; care for the sick, children and elderly, as well as the programs already mentioned.

These funds might come from a number of potential sources:

- An individual or group of billionaires.
- A combination of world governments.
- The United Nations.
- NGOs.
- Ordinary donors from around the world.
- Corporations paying for rights, such as cellular and TV licenses.
- investors.
- Bond sales to raise money to be repaid once things are established.

I recommend English as the official language, for several reasons:

- It is the most common multi-national language in the world
- It is the most taught and studied language in the world
- It is the language of world commerce, entertainments, Internet, etc; and
- It is the second most spoken language in the world. Only Chinese is spoken by more people; unlike English, that is almost entirely confined to one geographical area or exclusive communities.

Having traveled around the world, I have met people in every country who speak at least some English. This is as true in Vietnam as in Poland, Japan or Italy. It is even more true in former British colonies or American territories, such as Nigeria, the Philippines, India, Kenya, etc.

The number of English speakers is almost certainly undercounted, and it is likely that more people in the world speak basic English than speak Chinese, even though it is not their first language.

HOW TO MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY

There are a number of ways this dream can become reality:

1. The number of super-rich individual continues to grow at a rapid pace. There are now some 2,000 billionaires in the world, according to Forbes.

If even ONE of these individuals can be persuaded to enthusiastically embrace the cause, success becomes much more likely.

For instance, one billionaire could buy multiple islands or a vast area of land where the new nation could be implemented. They may even be able to help transport many thousands of refugees to their new home. Sooner or later, sovereignty should follow. Their contribution or investment in an economy, may also persuade a country to take in a large number of refugees.

2. The United Nations could have its most positive impact in many years of programs and relief efforts. Official support of this cause might well persuade the majority of its member nations to vote for a refugee nation to be established.

3. The United States government--the world's most powerful--and/or EU's government could take up the cause.

4. One large nation might agree to designate a major piece of property to be the world's new Refugee Nation, at little or no expense. We've mentioned the millions of acres of unused land, along with many thousands of uninhabited islands, all ideal for this purpose . . . and all available.

5. Alternatively, a smaller nation could admit a large number of refugees as immigrants, in exchange for some form of compensation and extensive goodwill from the world community.

6. Influential celebrities, especially those known for human rights work, or political leaders--in or out of office-- might take up the cause.

7. Millions of ordinary people support the cause in some way. Although the average person cannot wield the power and influence of a celebrity or billionaire, if enough of them take up this cause, it will become a reality. Rich or poor, known or unknown, we ask for, and greatly appreciate, your support.

If any of these happen, it will only be a matter of time before a refugee nation is established, and millions of lives will be saved or improved.

Sadly, where I do NOT expect a lot of support is from our most natural ally - the organizations who work with refugees. Although we will, of course, contact them and appeal for their help. Those who are "insiders" are often resistant to outside solutions. I remember reading about Paypal, a company which revolutionized online financial transactions. The founders said that if any of them had come from a related background, such as credit card services, they would not have thought of the idea and would likely have dismissed it as impossible or impractical. It sometimes takes an outsider's viewpoint to shake things up. In addition, institutions are often resistant to change and like to preserve the status quo. There are many examples in the business world. It took an upstart, Netflix, to force Blockbuster, the giant of movie rental, to close its stores and send DVDs to people on a monthly subscription basis, a model invented by Netflix. NGOs working with refugees employ thousands of people. I am not suggesting that they don't care about the people they work with, but let's take the example of Jill. Jill is a friend of a friend of mine. She is a very nice young lady, who had studied development studies or some similar major. As jobs in her major weren't easy to come by, she was thrilled when she got a well-paying job as an analyst, working for an NGO that works with refugees. She has never been to a refugee camp or met with any refugees. It was purely an administrative position, for an NGO working with refugees. One that I am sure gets millions in grants and donations. I was beginning to formulate the idea of a refugee nation about 7 or 8 years ago, and spoke with Jill about it.

She was dismissive of the idea, without giving any real objection. She said the NGO community would not be supportive. She could not give one real objection. Which I would have been happy to discuss and debate. Doesn't a big idea, especially one with the potential to change millions of lives, deserve to be discussed and debated on its merits? Not because the established "community would not be supportive"?

Meanwhile, as we have seen, despite thousands of well-meaning and well paid Jills, and dozens of organizations like hers, the refugee crisis has only gotten worse.

It is time for a radical solution. It is time for big ideas. The status quo is no longer acceptable!

ALTERNATIVES

As already stated repeatedly, today's status quo—where millions of refugees around the world continue to lead miserable and hopeless lives—is intolerable. Just because something has gone on for many years doesn't make it acceptable.

Ask the millions living in refugee camps around the world how they feel about waiting 10, 20, or 30 more years before having a real life, human rights, and a home.

When there is a will, the world is remarkably good at coming together. Late in 2014, an outbreak of Ebola flared up in several African countries. Panic set in, especially as cases first sprang up in the West. Through a range of measures and international efforts, the horrific disease didn't spread to millions, as many had feared and predicted,

Ebola has now been nearly eradicated. Last month (May 2015), Liberia, one of the worst-hit countries, has been declared officially free of Ebola. We can accomplish anything with the will to do so and global cooperation!

We cannot continue on the current path. We should, however, note a few other potential alternative solutions.

1. Each country, the wealthier, more stable countries at least, could agree to take in a certain percentage of the world's refugees, now and in the future. A small country like Denmark may take in 1%, while a large country, like the United States, may take up to 20%. All current (nearly 20 million) and future refugees should have a home.

There are major challenges with this, as immigration debates are currently raging in most countries with large immigrant (some of whom are refugees) populations, including the U.S., Europe, and Australia.

And some wealthy countries, such as Japan, have resources and an aging, declining population; but are very closed to immigrants. Nevertheless, this is one way to solve the refugee crisis. Currently, many Western countries, in fact most, DO take in a large number of refugees. This is true for the U.S. and most of Europe. But there is no organized, global system to account for all refugees; governments do not coordinate their immigration policies for refugees with each other.

2. Another solution would be to establish one world government and/or abolish any kind of visa and immigration rules, allowing totally free movement of people anywhere in the world. This seems very unlikely in the near future. It is also probably impractical now, since many people from poor countries would flood rich countries if there were no immigration controls. Maybe someday in the distant future, something like this could happen, but we need a solution NOW.

3. Another solution would be the end of all armed conflicts and the right of all refugees and their descendants to return to their original home countries. Needless to say, this is very unlikely. In fact, a number of countries have said they would never agree to this. There are also many ethnic groups who would never feel safe in their former countries, even if they were allowed to return.

4. Although not a complete solution, all refugees could be given equal rights to citizens now in their host countries. This is the humane thing to do anyway, but isn't done for political reasons. In Lebanon, for example, millions of Syrian and Palestinian refugees are barred from many professions. In fairness to Lebanon, this small country has taken in more refugees in proportion to its population than any other country in the world. But lacking access to work, education and opportunities continues a downward spiral of poverty and bitterness.

POTENTIAL OBJECTIONS

"EVEN IF WE DOUBLE THE SCALE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT, IT CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH. IT IS ONLY EVER CLEARING UP THE DEBRIS ONCE SOMETHING IS BROKEN." – DAVID MILIBAND

A number of objections could be raised to rebut this proposal. (We do not consider dismissive comments like "it's impractical" or "it will never happen" objections, rather as personal opinions)

1. "Refugees should return to their home countries"

This goal is simply not realistic. Many refugees fled their home countries because of safety concerns based on armed conflict, or because they are a vulnerable minority, often with a long history of violence and persecution. In some cases, they were fleeing genocide. Do we expect people to live with neighbors who, perhaps, killed family members, or harbor deep hatred towards them?

After World War II, many Jews returning to their hometowns in Eastern Europe found that another family had taken over their property, and they were sometimes killed on the spot.

And without naming names, a number of countries have stated that the “right of return” of refugees and their descendants is out of the question. We have to deal with practical reality, and not wishful thinking. Most refugees will never be able to return to their home countries and many don’t want to, as they have valid fears and painful memories. Some do, but it is not a desire or possibility for most refugees today.

2. “Doesn’t this feed into the anti-immigrant movement by saying “send them elsewhere?”

Most immigrants are not refugees. Refugees represent a minority of all immigrants, and are often the poorest and most vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking, and so on. We are not saying that countries cannot or should not take in refugees. But there should be a solution for all refugees, and until now none is being proposed.

This is a humanitarian issue, and should not be an issue of right or left wing politics, but basic human rights.

3. “How would they all get along?”

Their refugee background and variety of homelands, ethnicities and cultures, would force them to create a new country in which no single group would be the majority.

Some of the most successful and peaceful countries in the world are multi-racial societies comprised of immigrants and their descendants.

In addition to passing laws and a constitutional guarantee of equality, there must be a local culture of tolerance and peaceful co-existence. Here in California, and in many other places in the West, Indians and Pakistanis are friends, as are Israelis and Palestinians, Serbs and Croatians, etc. America is a “melting pot,” and people are far removed from the conflicts in their home countries. In fact, going somewhere far away from the conflict zone is probably best for anyone who has suffered through wars.

MY STORY

I was born in Israel, a country that was established as a homeland for Jews, many of them refugees. Over the last century, many Jews had been forced from their homelands, persecuted, and killed as members of an ethnic and religious minority.

Israel was essentially founded as a refugee nation, exclusively for Jewish refugees. The Jewish people came together, and despite enormous obstacles formed a Jewish nation. I hope the world will now come together to form a nation for all refugees regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

I grew up in the United States, which has been home to refugees and asylum seekers since before its independence. I was surrounded by people of all nationalities and backgrounds. These two homelands have shaped my identity and worldview. Flawed as they are, each attracted idealists and dreamers.

My successful career in real estate has enabled me to live the American Dream. I have traveled to over 70 countries, along the way teaching English in Taiwan, mixing drinks in Finland, sponsoring an orphanage in Nepal, setting up a new library in Ghana, and volunteering at a school in Poland. My world travels and experiences have informed and shaped me.

Last year, in a desire to give back, I started a scavenger hunt called “Hidden Cash”. What started as a fun little local activity soon became an internet sensation, and briefly put me in the media spotlight. It was a fun experience in some ways, but I do value my privacy, and am not seeking attention.

But this idea, which I have had for many years, seems to become more urgent with every passing day.

As the number of refugees continues to increase to record levels. As we watch news reports about more boats capsizing in the Mediterranean, with hundreds drowning at a time, or asylum seekers starving to death in Southeast Asia, refused admission by multiple countries. As we read about millions driven from their homes. Whatever the timing for me personally, how can I not act? How can WE not act? Is it not our civic duty? This proposal should be discussed on its own merits. If people don’t like me, or my background, it shouldn’t matter. The idea is what matters. We are planning to have hundreds, perhaps thousands, of ambassadors spreading the word. We hope you will be one of them.

They say there is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come. We feel that this is overdue, and that the status quo - millions suffering needlessly - is no longer acceptable. No one in the 21st century should be homeless and stateless.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

This proposal may be ridiculed or attacked by some, but hopefully is not ignored. It should be vigorously debated, because the world needs a solution to this staggering humanitarian crisis. Millions of people are suffering and cannot wait any longer. Solutions such as the ones discussed here, or new ones, should be debated and built on. But we can no longer sit idly by as millions of our fellow human beings suffer due to human created conflicts.

The time to be passive is finished. The time is right for debate and constructive action. Establishing a refugee nation will not happen overnight. It may take years, or even decades. Raising awareness and stimulating discussion is the main goal now. If you don't like the idea, suggest an alternative.

One thing is certain: The status quo is no longer acceptable!

At this point, our most important task is to passionately spread the message. We are not asking for money. We just hope this revolutionary idea will be discussed widely, especially by those with the power to make it a reality. Here are some steps you can take, starting today:

1. Fill out the contact form at the bottom of the website. We will give you more tools and action steps. You can also follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheRefugeeNation and on Twitter, [@RefugeeNation](https://twitter.com/RefugeeNation)
2. Share links from our website, refugeenation.org, on social media
3. Write your elected representatives and share this with them
4. Contact the UNHCR, IRC, and other pertinent organizations
5. Contact the media; write letters to the editor and story suggestions
6. If you have connections to celebrities who might care about this cause, or a billionaire, please contact them and ask if they would like to use their fame or fortune to change the world and save lives
7. E-mail us at info@refugeenation.org if you feel you want to be a volunteer for change. Whether you can devote a few hours a week or more, we need people able and willing to carry the message forward.

We want to bring the refugee crisis to the forefront of the world's conscious and consciousness. This is a massive problem and it also has a solution. We can't do it without your support!

Help us change the world and heal millions of broken lives.

Thank you,

Jason Buzi
Founder
Refugee Nation

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